

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00723 231014Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 230912Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8287

S E C R E T BEIRUT 723

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY AND, IF
DESIRED, TO AMEMBASSIES PARIS, CAIRO, DAMASCUS AND JIDDA.

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

REF PARIS 2127 BEIRUT 707 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY ANNOUNCEMENT FROM "AUTHORIZED
FRENCH SOURCES" ON LEBANESE RADIO AND PRESS HERE THAT
FRANCE WILL COMPLETELY SUPPORT APPLICATION OF SYRIAN-
LEBANESE PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT AND THAT "EXPLORATORY"
MISSION OF FON MIN SAUVAGNARGUES NO LONGER HAS A "RAISON
D'ETRE" SINCE "THE HOPES FOR SUCCESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
AND IN ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN DECEIVED". I
HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH FRENCH EMBASSY TO CONFIRM, BUT
ASSUME THIS POSITION WAS AUTHORIZED BY PARIS. I
BELIEVE SUCH STATEMENT IS EXACTLY WHAT IS NEEDED AT
PRESENT JUNCTURE HERE. CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING FOR LONGER
PERIOD THAN ANY CEASEFIRE IN RECENT MEMORY BUT ISOLATED
SHOOTING CONTINUES AND WE WOULD WISH TO DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO AVOID RAISING POLITICAL HOPES ON CHRISTIAN
RIGHT WHICH COULD LEAD TO FAILURE OF AGREEMENT.

2. ASSUME THIS FRENCH POSITION POSTDATES AND SUPPLEMENTS EFFORTS
ON PART OF ELYSEE MENTIONED IN REFTTEL A. WE URGE THAT SECRETARY
IN MEETING WITH SAUVAGNARGUES ASK FRENCH GOVT TO HOLD OFF ON ANY
SECRET

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CONTACTS WITH ARAB GOVTS SUCH AS EGYPT AND SAUDI

ARABIA ON ALTERNATIVE PLAN, AT LEAST UNTIL WE SEE HOW THIS
AGREEMENT GOES.
LAMBRAKIS

SECRET

NNN

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